

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. Sinclair's unilateral decision to label political propaganda as "news" allows it to provide a one-sided political ad without having to discuss other opinions or even make sure that the facts are correct.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Many viewers, such as myself, seek several sources of information in order to educate themselves about the current events happening in their communities, their states, the country and throughout the world. Unfortunately, when large conglomerates own vast numbers of stations, viewers of several different stations often do not know that their information comes from a single source.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.